



**Minutes  
State Board of Education Meeting  
January 22, 2015**

Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President  
Des Moines

Michael L. Knedler  
Vice President  
Council Bluffs

Brooke Axiotis  
Des Moines

Michael Bearden  
Gladbrook

Diane Crookham-Johnson  
Oskaloosa

Angela English  
Dyersville

Rosie Hussey  
Clear Lake

Mike May  
Spirit Lake

Mary Ellen Miller  
Mason City and  
Wayne County

Hannah Rens  
Student Member  
Sioux City

Brad A. Buck  
Director and  
Executive Officer

The State Board of Education meeting was held on Thursday, January 22, 2015, in the State Capitol and the Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa. The following State Board members were present: Charlie Edwards, Mike Knedler, Brooke Axiotis, Mike Bearden, Diane Crookham-Johnson, Angela English, Mike May, Mary Ellen Miller, Hannan Rens, and Rosie Hussey (via telephone). Iowa Department of Education staff members present were: Brad Buck, Ryan Wise, Staci Hupp, Amy Williamson, Shan Seivert, David Tilly, Nicole Proesch, Mary Delagardelle, Phil Wise, Jeff Berger, Tom Cooley, Marietta Rives, Isbelia Arzola, Jeremy Varner, Bradley Niebling, Carole Richardson, Larry Bice, Sarah Brown, Pradeep Kotamraju, Eric St Clair, Dianne Chadwick, Kent Farver, Paula Nissen, Jay Pennington, Colleen Anderson, and Jody Crane. Also in attendance were: Governor Terry Branstad, Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, and Linda Fandel, Governor's Office; Senator Herman Quirmbach; Senator Amy Sinclair; Representative Ron Jorgensen; Representative Tedd Gassman; Representative Patti Ruff; Representative Cecil Dolecheck; Representative Zachary Nunn; Representative Cindy Winckler; D.T. Magee, Board of Educational Examiners; Linda Reynolds, Pearson; Frank Hilton; Jodi Grover; Erik Sandahl, Senate; Marty Mineck, Questar; Lisa Bartusek and Patti Schroeder, Iowa Association of School Boards; Kyle Torkelson, Senate Research Staff; M.J. Dolan, Iowa Association of Community College Trustees; Rod Boshart, Cedar Rapids Gazette; Kathy Bolten, Des Moines Register; Greg Dufoe, Adel Desoto Minburn Community School District; Bill Decker, Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency; Connor Quealy, WHO Radio; Erin Murphy, Lee Enterprises; Kris Kilibarda, Iowa Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and Science Standards Work Team; Joe Stutting, North Scott Community School District; Theron Schutte, Bettendorf Community School District; Gannon Hendrick, Senate Republicans; Bridget Godes, Senate Democratic Caucus; and Dave Epley, House Democratic Caucus.

## **STATE BOARD WORK SESSION - DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

A work session was held with the following legislators: Senator Herman Quirmbach, Chair, Senate Education Committee, and Vice-Chair, Senate Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Senator Amy Sinclair, Ranking Member, Senate Education Committee; Representative Ron Jorgensen, Chair, House Education Committee; Representative Tedd Gassman, Vice-Chair, House Education Committee; Representative Patti Ruff, Ranking Member, House Education Committee; Representative Cecil Dolecheck, Chair, House Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Representative Zachary Nunn, Vice-Chair, House Education Appropriations Subcommittee; and Representative Cindy Winckler, Ranking Member, House Education Appropriations Subcommittee.

The purpose of the work session was to provide information about and discuss a few of the State Board of Education's (Board) top priorities with legislators. The priorities discussed include:

- Assessment
- Iowa Core
- Teacher and Leader Preparation

There was also discussion regarding funding for summer school programs, Iowa Learning Online and K-12 Online Schools, broadband width, expansion of the Iowa Core to include the arts, the assessment tool, and the need to continue funding for the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system.

## **STATE BOARD WORK SESSION – ADVOCACY/COMMUNICATION**

Ryan Wise, Deputy Director, and Staci Hupp, Chief, Bureau of Communications and Information Services, led a work session on advocacy/communication. Board members reviewed and provided input on a draft advocacy brochure. Distribution of the brochures was also discussed.

Hupp reviewed what had been discussed at the November State Board meeting regarding advocacy/communication. The Board also talked about the development of an advocacy/communication plan, platform and vehicles for delivery, the messages the Board wants to send, the Board's responsibilities, and next steps.

## **STATE BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

Charlie Edwards called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

It was moved by Rosie Hussey and seconded by Angela English that the agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Director's Report**

Brad Buck, Director, Iowa Department of Education (Department), indicated that 76 school districts have been chosen to launch local teacher leadership plans through Iowa's new Teacher Leadership and Compensation (TLC) system during the 2015-16 school year. Fifty districts have also been identified for the 2016-17 school year. Buck explained the process used in identifying the selected districts. The Department requested that the Legislature appropriate \$50 million for the second round of districts to enter the TLC system. The Department has also requested \$1 million for support of professional development of teacher leaders and \$1 million for support of principals in TLC districts.

Buck also reported on the early literacy initiative. The assessments on the early warning system are administered three times a year (fall, mid-year, and spring). We are in the second administration of the assessment and approximately 20,000 students are taking the assessment each day.

Buck provided an update on the status of the Hamburg and Farragut Community School Districts who are involved in a Phase II accreditation visit for both program and finance. The finance portion of the accreditation visit was ordered by the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) and the program portion was determined by the Department. At the October 2014 State Board meeting, the Board ruled on placing both districts on a corrective action plan. Department staff will revisit the districts February 17-19, 2015, to see if the areas of noncompliance have been corrected.

A vote was held in December 2014 for the districts to merge. The vote failed in Hamburg and passed in Farragut. As a result, this effort failed because both sides needed to agree. In addition, the districts are working on renewing their whole grade sharing agreements.

Buck talked about the districts' financial situation and discussed action taken by the SBRC.

Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, indicated that the Office of Civil Rights is watching this situation closely to ensure the districts are in compliance.

## **Legislative Update**

Shan Seivert, Policy Liaison, Division of Policy and Communications, provided a legislative update. She shared information on State Supplemental Aid and the issue of school start date.

Seivert also reported on the following Department bills:

- At-Risk and Dropout Prevention Funding
- Child Care Oversight
- Payment of Student Costs, Psychiatric Facilities
- Gap Tuition Assistance Program
- Education Department Technical Clarifications and Efficiencies
- Iowa Principal Leadership Institute Advisory Council
- Beginning Teacher Mentoring and Induction Funding
- Postsecondary Education Reporting for Veterans

Seivert also shared information on the Governor's broadband and anti-bullying bills.

Seivert informed the Board that the Department's legislative webpage has been updated and is more user friendly.

Brad Buck reported that the Department is requesting funding for TLC, the Iowa Reading Research Center, and the early warning system.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mike May moved and Mary Ellen Miller seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## **BOARD ACTION/DISCUSSION AGENDA**

### **Rules: Chapter 98 – Financial Management of Categorical Funding (Notice)**

Jeff Berger, Deputy Director, reported on Chapter 98 – Financial Management of Categorical Funding. This chapter of rules outlines the financial management of categorical funding. This Notice of Intended Action to amend this chapter reflects legislative changes impacting a significant number of existing categorical funding programs. The proposed amendments also create new subrules, based upon relatively recent legislation, dealing with early literacy and an entrepreneurial education fund.

**Motion:** Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 98.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Chapter 21 – Community Colleges (Notice)**

Jeremy Varner, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges, reported on Chapter 21 – Community Colleges. The proposed amendment to Chapter 21 would clarify protocol for community college residency determinations for students, including veterans, and clarify permissible tuition rates. The amendment would move the State Board of Education's Uniform Policy on Residency Status into Iowa Administrative Code. The amendment would also clarify the technical specialty components of diploma and certificate programs.

**Motion:** Mike Knedler made a motion and Rosie Hussey seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 21.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

## **Rules: Chapter 80 – Standards for Paraeducator Certification Programs (Notice)**

Marietta Rives, Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, reported on Chapter 80 – Standards for Paraeducator Certification Programs. These rules outline the standards and program requirements that all paraeducator certification programs must meet in order to be approved to prepare paraeducators in Iowa. Compliance with those standards is required and evaluated during each paraeducator certification program's initial and periodic reviews.

The existing standards need updating to remain current with research on student achievement, accountability, and continuous program improvement. The revised standards in this chapter more closely align with rules from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners on the issuance of paraeducator certificates.

**Motion:** Diane Crookham-Johnson made a motion and Brooke Axiotis seconded that the State Board give public notice of its intent to amend Chapter 80.

**Vote:** The motion carried unanimously.

There was a question regarding the number of paraeducators seeking certification and if there is research that indicates the use of paraeducators improves student achievement.

## **Luther College and Mount Mercy University Educator Preparation Program Accreditation Follow-up Reviews**

Larry Bice, Administrative Consultant, Bureau of Educator Quality, presented Luther College and Mount Mercy University Educator Preparation Program Accreditation Follow-up Reviews. The Luther College Teacher Preparation Program was reviewed in November 2013 and approved by the State Board on March 6, 2014. A follow-up

review of the concerns identified in the final report was required and conducted in November 2014.

The Mount Mercy University Educator Preparation Program was reviewed in September/October 2013 and approved by the State Board on January 23, 2014. A follow-up review of the concerns identified in the final report was required and conducted in October 2014.

Bice reviewed a document titled *Follow-up Report to Concerns Identified in the Final Accreditation Report* for both institutions. These reports provide evidence of compliance on the concerns from the follow-up reviews.

Bice talked about the schedule of accreditation visits and templates each institution receives that addresses issues from their annual report.

There was discussion regarding next steps, and information being collected to help prospective teachers make a choice when selecting a teacher preparation program.

### **Assessment Recommendations**

David Tilly, Deputy Director, and Mary Ellen Miller, led the conversation regarding the Board's recommendation to the Legislature related to the issue of assessment. Tilly reported that the Assessment Task Force will be presenting their report to the House Education Committee.

The Board discussed the thorough work of the Assessment Task Force. There was additional discussion regarding the task force's vote of 20-1 in favor of recommending the Smarter Balanced assessments as the next state assessment, and the reasoning of the one opposing vote.

There was discussion regarding the cost, the content and format of the State Board's recommendation to the Legislature, and school districts' ability to access an online assessment.

The Board will hold a telephonic meeting in February to make a recommendation to the Legislature.

### **Board Reports**

Mike Knedler plans to attend a joint appropriations committee meeting on January 27, 2015, where the community colleges will be presenting their budget. He hopes to attend an Iowa Association of Community Colleges Trustees Student Legislative Seminar on January 28, 2015. Knedler encouraged Board members to talk more about community colleges.

Mary Ellen Miller continues to work on assessment. She attended a meeting where Director Buck made a budget presentation to the Governor, and she also attended TLC listening tours.

Rosie Hussey has been communicating with Director Buck and Larry Bice seeking additional information on the out-of-state colleges and universities that offer online teacher preparation programs.

Mike May appreciates being notified of education-related events going on in each of the Board members' respective areas. He also appreciates the materials that Board members are provided by the Department. He appeared on a legislative forum in Logan, Iowa, and discussed some of the issues on the Board's docket.

Mike Bearden has been working with his local school district regarding their financial situation and indicated that more school districts in the state are going to be in financial trouble within the next few years.

Angela English attended a legislative question and answer session where the school start date was discussed. She also had the opportunity to meet Dr. Wee, President of Northeast Iowa Community College.

Charlie Edwards thanked Board members for their collegiality.

### **The Annual Condition of Education Report**

Jay Pennington, Chief, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, presented highlights of the 25<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Annual Condition of Education Report*. His presentation provided a compare and contrast of the 1990 version of the report to the current version.

*The Annual Condition of Education Report* includes information on enrollment, early childhood education, staff, program, student performance, special education, and finance. It serves as a resource document for educators, legislators, and citizens seeking information on Iowa's education system.

Pennington provided information on Iowa's students and schools, educators, curriculum and outcome measures, and ACT trends.

### **Special Education Symposium**

David Tilly, Jeff Berger, and Amy Williamson, Chief, Bureau of School Improvement, presented information on the special education symposium that was held December 16-17, 2014. The symposium was held in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Human Services in order to provide professional learning opportunities to staff in residential and day programs providing educational services.

## **Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds**

Hannah Rens welcomed Governor Terry Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds.

Charlie Edwards recognized the Governor and Lt. Governor for their commitment to education. In addition, Iowa's are fortunate to have a Legislature that appreciates the importance of education.

Board members introduced themselves.

Mike Knedler shared information about the Board's priority of the Iowa Core. Mary Ellen Miller shared information about the Board's priority of Assessment. Charlie Edwards talked about the Board's priority of Teacher and Leader Preparation. Rosie Hussey shared additional comments regarding the Common Core/Iowa Core.

Mike May expressed appreciation for the Governor and Lt. Governor's service to the state. He also talked about concern with the number of boys in special education classes, the decline in the number of male teachers, and the need for more resources for literacy.

Diane Crookham-Johnson thanked the Governor and Lt. Governor for their efforts with bullying.

The Governor thanked Board members for the information shared on their priorities. He talked in detail about the Teacher Leadership and Compensation system. Specifically, he addressed the Department working collaboratively with area education agencies as the TLC system is phased in, funding, the number of participating school districts, the goal for all school districts to be participating in 2016-17, and benefits of the system.

The Governor also addressed anti-bullying efforts. He talked about two successful anti-bullying summits that have been held. There is new anti-bullying legislation that has been perfected which he thinks will be approved this year because there is bipartisan support. He talked about the improvements/changes to the new proposed legislation.

The Governor reported on the issue of school start date. He talked about how the law is clear that school should not start any sooner than September 1 unless there is significant negative educational impact. Schools have more flexibility than before from the 180 day requirement to 1,080 hours of instruction. The Governor indicated that he is open to compromise with this issue.

The Lt. Governor thanked Board members for their service and commitment to giving children the best education possible. She talked about the early literacy initiative. Specifically, she shared data on reading proficiency, the early warning system for literacy, funding for literacy efforts, the Reading Research Center, and expansion and funding of the Iowa Reading Corp.



The Lt. Governor also reported on other key initiatives that include a budget recommendation to support high needs schools, the establishment of an Iowa Principal Leadership Institute; the Teach Iowa Scholar program; funding for schools that voluntarily take the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development test; and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Charlie Edwards talked about the benefits of the Board having an opportunity to meet with legislative leadership and the Governor and Lt. Governor and being assured everyone is working towards the same goals.

Edwards complimented Brad Buck and Department staff for their service. Governor Branstad thanked Board members for their service.

### **The Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report 2014**

Jeremy Varner, Kent Farver, Chief, and Paula Nissen, Consultant, Division of Community Colleges, presented highlights of *The Annual Condition of Iowa's Community Colleges Report*. Varner indicated that the report is comprehensive and includes detailed information about enrollment, credit hours, credit and non-credit programs, adult education and literacy, financial aid, tuition and fees, and human resources. This report includes a special supplement that deals with education outcomes as well as a section devoted to the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund programs.

Board members received a printed copy of the report which has a reduced number of pages. A more comprehensive version of the report can be found on the Department's website.

A PowerPoint was presented that addressed:

- Fall Enrollment
- Credit Enrollment
- On-line Credit Enrollment
- Joint Enrollment
- Division Research
- Annual Report Contents
- Supplement – Education Outcomes
- Employment Following Award
- Career Cluster to Industry Mapping
- Iowa's Skills Gap
- Fiscal Year 2014 Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund

### **Review of School Finance Formula Review Committee**

Jeff Berger reported that the School Finance Formula Review Committee is required to be appointed every five years to conduct regular reviews of the school finance formula and produce a school finance formula status report for submission to the General Assembly. The

Review Committee met on December 15, 2014. Berger provided an overview of that meeting and next steps.

Berger distributed a document titled *Recommendations to Update the School Finance Formula*.

### **Public Comment - School Start Date**

Lisa Bartusek, Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB), provided public comment regarding the school start date. She indicated that school board members value local flexibility. She indicated that IASB is seeking a repeal of the law.

### **School Start Date Discussion**

In December 2014 Iowa school districts were notified that the Department will no longer automatically grant waivers of the current school start date required under Iowa Code section 279.10(4) for the 2015-16 school year.

Board members had a lengthy discussion and shared their perspective on this controversial issue. A concern was expressed regarding the timing of this decision by indicating that districts had already been developing their calendars for the 2015-16 school year. It was suggested that this issue be studied further and involve Iowa stakeholders and allow the current waiver process to be used for the next school year and end the process through a public hearing.

Other comments included this being a politically charged issue that would be better settled by the Governor and Legislature. There was discussion regarding how the best interest of students and student achievement is a priority, the effect on Iowa tourism and the revenue lost when schools start early, whether there is evidence regarding how the school start date affects student achievement, how school calendars should be set by local districts, the Board's role and authority, the hope that a compromise can be reached and it be flexible enough for districts, the work and effort involved in setting school calendars, the need for schools to be innovative in developing their calendars, and the hope that there is passion around worrying about the dynamics of having a great teacher in front of every student as there is around the school calendar.

It was suggested that the Board revisit this issue and make a statement in March, if needed. Board members can contact their legislators and express their opinion as well.

Brad Buck elaborated on the role of the Department and the waiver process.

### **Overview of the Science Standards Review Process**

David Tilly and Brad Niebling, Consultant, Bureau of Standards and Curriculum, presented an overview of the work being done in reviewing high academic standards in the area of science per Governor Branstad's Executive Order 83.

Tilly reviewed the details of Executive Order 83, which directs the Department to identify practices and procedures that would allow for ongoing review of Iowa's high academic standards and receive review from educators and the public. The content areas will be reviewed on a cycle.

The Department initiated a review of science standards from around the country to update the Iowa academic content standards. To conduct that review, the Department hired an independent facilitator to coordinate and execute the review process. Tilly reported that the Department recruited 19 Iowans to be part of a team and explained the process used in reviewing the standards.

Niebling indicated that an electronic survey and town hall meetings will be used in gathering public input on the standards. He also reported on the dissemination strategies that will be used informing the public.

At the end of the process, a proposal will be brought to the Board for consideration. There was discussion regarding overriding issues.

Charlie Edwards adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

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Charles C. Edwards, Jr.  
President

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Brad A. Buck  
Director